

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT NAMES NEW CHIEF JUDGES OF STATE COURTS

LANSING, MI, November 26, 2003 - The Michigan Supreme Court has released the names of chief judges who will head Michigan's trial courts for the next two years.

The high court also has reappointed Court of Appeals Judge William C. Whitbeck to serve another term as that court's chief judge.

Michigan Court Rule (MCR) 8.110 states that "[t]he Supreme Court shall select a judge of each trial court to serve as chief judge." The selection process, which takes place in each odd-numbered year, permits each trial court with two or more judges to submit the names of no fewer than two judges as candidates for chief judge. The chief judges will serve a two-year term, starting January 1, 2004.

Under MCR 8.110, chief judges serve as their court's representatives in dealing with the public, the news media, the legal community, and other government agencies. Chief judges oversee other judges and court staff, supervise caseloads and court finances, and set their courts' hours and work policies.

The complete list of chief judges of Michigan's circuit, probate and district courts may be viewed on the court's website at

<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Resources/Administrative/index.htm#otheractions>.

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